(c) whether Government would give clear instruction to strictly maintain the safety standards to prevent further accidents?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) Construction and contract labours are not dying frequent at Rourkela Steel Plant, NTPC Konia and NTPC Talcher due to lack of safety measures. Details of accidents during last three years are as under:

	2001	2002	2003
Rourkela Steel Plant	Nil	4	1
NTPC (Kaniha) Talcher	5	6	7
NTPC (Angul) Talcher	Nil	Nil	2

These accidents have occurred due to negligence and non adherence of safety norms by individual contract labours concerned.

(b) Contract labours were not supposed to be getting equal wages as per regular employees but were entitled to wages as agreed to by the contractors which was not less than the prescribed minimum wages. Medical check-up health/medical facilities are also extended to them in NTPC Hospitals. Contract labour in Rourkela Steel Plant are covered under the Employees' State insurance Act, 1948 and as such they are entitled to medical care, as per the provisions of the Act. To ensure safety, all necessary safety facilities like personal protective equipment, awareness training programmes, etc. are provided as per the provisions contained under the Factories Act, 1948.

(c) Rourkela Steel Plant and NTPC takes comprehensive safety measures like providing safety personal protective equipment, regular on-the-job training, inspection and identification of unsafe acts/conditions, safety audit, review meetings on safety, etc. To ensure compliance of use of safety appliances, surprise checks are made by safety inspectors/officers. In case of any deviation, gate passes are seized and contract labourers are not allowed to work till corrective measures have been taken.

Legislation for farm labours

310. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to enact a legislation in respect of farm labours; and

(b) if so, by when, a Bill would be presented to the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to enact a separate legislation for farm labour.

Amendment in Contract Labour Abolition Act

311. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to amend the Contract Labour Abolition Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the necessary amendment would be brought forward before Parliament for final enactment?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) In the wake of economic liberalization, judgements of various courts, the experience gathered in administration of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the proposals received from social partners to bring about changes in the said Act, the Government has initiated action to review the Act. The amendments which may be effected in the Act have not yet been finalised as the process involves consultation with various concerned authorities. Hence no definite time, by which the amendment would be brought forward before Parliament, can be given.

Contract Labour System

312. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce contract labour system in several segments in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide for decent work conditions for the contract labour force including provision for their social security and freedom from exploitation?